



Investing in Our Future: Positive Outcomes of Early Childhood Investments

First Things First (FTF), Arizona’s early childhood agency, represents a commitment Arizonans made to our youngest children – that they would have the support they need to start school healthy and ready to succeed. Many young children in Arizona face significant barriers to their success, including poverty, trauma and lack of access to needed resources. In the FTF San Carlos Apache Region, there are **1,435 children** (under age 6), with **59% living in poverty**. Here is how FTF is working to support young children and their families in this region.

90% of a child’s brain grows before kindergarten.
Early childhood matters.

FTF invests in proven programs and innovative strategies through grants to community organizations that provide services to children and families. Some of the FTF-funded services in this region include Grow It!, Try It!, Like It!, developmental and sensory screenings and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]

Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

5,255 Books got into the homes of infants, toddlers and preschoolers through a local distribution program.

50 Adults attended classes on the importance of nutrition and physical activity for the healthy development of young children.

13 Adults attended parenting activities to learn about early child care development.

Quality Preschool and Child Care

134 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

Preventive Health

243 Children monitored to receive appropriate screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.



Vision screening helps Seven Mile boy see clearly

Renelda Alden and Bradley Swift from Seven Mile suspected their 5-year-old son Braden had a vision problem because he squinted all the time. So the parents were happy when they heard that he would be getting his vision and hearing screened in Head Start.

The First Things First San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council funds developmental, hearing and vision screenings to improve the number of screenings for young children in the region.



Scan to read the family story

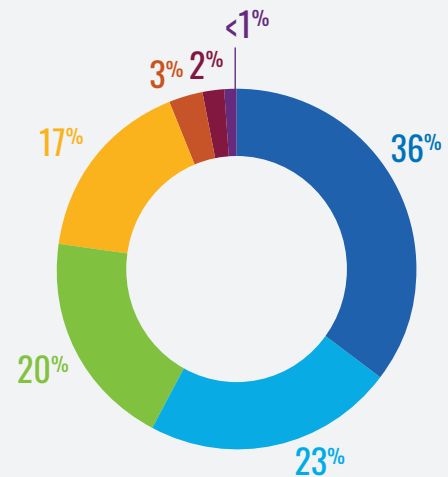


Strengthening Families

Positive early experiences, like nurturing relationships with parents and caregivers, promote healthy brain development and learning. First Things First expands families' access to the information, services and supports they need to help their young children achieve their fullest potential.

State Fiscal Year 2023 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Preventive Health	\$227,539
Strengthening Families	\$158,839
Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$138,210
Parent and Community Awareness	\$114,181
Workforce Development and Training	\$23,013
Research and Evaluation	\$14,678
Coordinating Care	\$1,155
Total	\$677,615



FTF San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council

FTF regional partnership councils are made up of volunteers who study the unique needs of the local community and inform how funds should be used.

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Vice Chair

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